



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and

WHEREAS, NMO is more common in women than men by 80 percent, and occurs in all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, NMO can occur at any age, but the most common age of onset is between 32 and 41; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of NMO is critical, and if untreated can lead to devastating and irreversible effects, and while there is no cure for NMO, with early detection, individuals diagnosed can receive medical attention; and

WHEREAS, it is important to improve public awareness of NMO so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible and proper treatment can begin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March, 2017 as

Neuromyelitis Optica Awareness Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this first day of March, 2017.



Bill Haslam

Governor

Julie Hayat

Secretary of State